

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At Page 1, please add the following heading before heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION”:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application claims the benefit of Japanese Application No. 2003-101277 filed April 4, 2003.

At page 23, line 19 to page 24, line 2:

Step 5: smoothing in the direction of views

The first fitting means 204 included in the data processing unit 60 smoothes projection information 603 in the direction of views. Consequently, third B projection information 604 shown in ~~Fig. 6~~ Fig. 8a is produced. The projection information has projection information values, which are plotted as pulse-like fluctuations derived from a difference of one view from the others detected on each channel, smoothed. Fig. 8(B) illustratively shows an example of the third B projection information. The projection information values that are sampled in relation to one channel in the direction of views and that exhibit cyclicity are smoothed.